



Application No.: 10/024,544

Docket No.: 2038-282

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A body fluid absorbent wearing article, comprising:

a liquid-pervious topsheet;

a liquid-impervious backsheet;

a liquid-absorbent panel disposed between said topsheet and said backsheet;

said panel comprising being composed of by a first fibrous assembly sub-panel lying on a side of said topsheet and having a compressive restoring elasticity, and a substantially flat second fibrous assembly sub-panel underlying said first fibrous assembly sub-panel;

said first fibrous assembly sub-panel having a substantially flat portion spaced upward from said second fibrous assembly sub-panel by a first given dimension and a plurality of protuberant portions extending from embossed on said flat portion toward said second fibrous assembly panel so as to bear against said second fibrous assembly sub-panel; and

said first fibrous assembly sub-panel having a fiber density progressively increasing toward as it gets nearer to said second fibrous assembly sub-panel which has and said second fibrous assembly sub panel having a fiber density assembly higher than that of said first fibrous assembly sub-panel.

RECEIVED

MAY 24 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

2. (currently amended) The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to [[Claim]] claim 1, wherein said first fibrous assembly sub-panel has a plurality of protuberant wall portions each extending from said flat portion toward said second fibrous assembly sub-panel, being [[but]] spaced upward from said second fibrous assembly sub-panel by a second given

dimension, and serving to connect [[each]] one pair of the adjacent protuberant portions with each other.

3. **(currently amended)** The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to [[Claim]] claim 2, wherein said first fibrous assembly sub-panel has a fiber density of 0.03-0.10 g/cm³ in said flat portion and a fiber density of 0.05-0.15 g/cm³ in said protuberant portions as well as in said wall portions, and said second fibrous assembly sub-panel has a fiber density of 0.10-0.50 g/cm³.

4. **(currently amended)** The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to [[Claim]] claim 1, wherein said first fibrous assembly sub-panel comprises hydrophilic thermoplastic synthetic resin fiber by 70-100 wt % of said first fibrous assembly sub-panel and cellulose fiber by 0-30 wt % of said first fibrous assembly sub-panel, while said second fibrous assembly sub-panel comprises said synthetic resin fiber by 0-50 wt % of said second fibrous assembly sub-panel and said cellulose fiber by 50-100 wt % of said second fibrous assembly sub-panel.

5. **(currently amended)** The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to [[Claim]] claim 1, wherein said second fibrous assembly sub-panel contains comprises at least one of fibrous or granular super-absorptive polymer by 0-50 wt % of said second fibrous assembly sub-panel.

6. **(new)** A body fluid absorbent wearing article, comprising:
a liquid-pervious topsheet;
a liquid-impervious backsheet; and
a liquid-absorbent panel disposed between said topsheet and said backsheet;
said panel comprising a first fibrous assembly sub-panel underlying said topsheet and a

second fibrous assembly sub-panel underlying said first fibrous assembly sub-panel;

 said first fibrous assembly sub-panel having a plurality of protuberant portions extending away from said topsheet and toward said second fibrous assembly panel so as to bear against said second fibrous assembly sub-panel;

 said second fibrous assembly sub-panel having a fiber density higher than that of said first fibrous assembly sub-panel.

7. (**new**) The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 6, wherein

 said first fibrous assembly sub-panel further has a plurality of wall portions each being spaced from said second fibrous assembly sub-panel and connecting one pair of adjacent said protuberant portions with each other;

 said first fibrous assembly sub-panel has a fiber density of 0.05-0.15 g/cm³ in said protuberant portions as well as in said wall portions; and

 said second fibrous assembly sub-panel has a fiber density of 0.10-0.50 g/cm³.

8. (**new**) The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 6, wherein said first fibrous assembly sub-panel has a surface which faces the topsheet and which is generally flat throughout an entire area thereof.

9. (**new**) The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 8, wherein

 said first fibrous assembly sub-panel further has a base portion defining said surface, said protuberant portions extending from an opposite surface of said base portion toward said second fibrous assembly sub-panel; and

 a fiber density of said protuberant portions is higher than that of said base portion and lower than the fiber density of said second fibrous assembly sub-panel.

10. (**new**) The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 9, wherein said

first fibrous assembly sub-panel further has a plurality of wall portions each extending from the base portion toward said second fibrous assembly sub-panel, being spaced from said second fibrous assembly sub-panel, and connecting one pair of adjacent said protuberant portions with each other;

a fiber density of said wall portions is higher than that of said base portion and lower than the fiber density of said second fibrous assembly sub-panel.

11. (new) The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 10, wherein the opposite surface of said base portion includes a plurality of areas each being completely surrounded by a number of said protuberant portions and said wall portions.

12. (new) The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 6, wherein said first fibrous assembly sub-panel further has a base portion which is adjacent said topsheet and from which said protuberant portions extend toward said second fibrous assembly sub-panel; and

a fiber density of said protuberant portions is higher than that of said base portion and lower than the fiber density of said second fibrous assembly sub-panel.

13. (new) The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 12, wherein the fiber density of said base portion is in a range of 0.03-0.10 g/cm³; the fiber density of said protuberant portions is in a range of 0.05-0.15 g/cm³; and the fiber density of said second fibrous assembly sub-panel is 0.10-0.50 g/cm³ in a range of.

14. (new) The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 12, wherein said first fibrous assembly sub-panel further has a plurality of wall portions each extending from the base portion toward said second fibrous assembly sub-panel, being spaced from said second fibrous assembly sub-panel, and connecting one pair of adjacent said protuberant portions with each other; a fiber density of said wall portions is higher than that of said base portion and lower than

the fiber density of said second fibrous assembly sub-panel.

15. (new) The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to claim 6, wherein said second fibrous assembly sub-panel contacts said first fibrous assembly sub-panel only at lower ends of said protuberant portions, thereby preventing bodily discharge that has been transferred to said second fibrous assembly sub-panel from flowing back to the first fibrous assembly sub-panel.

16. (new) A liquid-absorbent panel to be disposed between a liquid-pervious topsheet and a liquid-impervious backsheet of a body fluid absorbent garment, said liquid-absorbent panel comprising:

a first fibrous assembly sub-panel adapted to underlie the topsheet; and

a second-fibrous assembly sub-panel underlying said first fibrous assembly sub-panel;

said first fibrous assembly sub-panel having a base portion and a plurality of protuberances extending from a first side of said base portion toward said second fibrous assembly panel so as to bear against said second fibrous assembly sub-panel;

said second fibrous assembly sub-panel having a fiber density higher than that of said first fibrous assembly sub-panel;

wherein a second, opposite side of said base portion, including regions corresponding to said protuberances, is generally flat.

17. (new) The liquid-absorbent panel according to claim 16, wherein a fiber density of said protuberances is higher than that of said base portion and lower than the fiber density of said second fibrous assembly sub-panel.

18. (new) The liquid-absorbent panel according to claim 16, wherein said first fibrous assembly sub-panel further has a plurality of wall portions each extending from said first side of said base portion toward said second fibrous assembly panel, being spaced

from said second fibrous assembly sub-panel, and connecting one pair of adjacent said protuberances with each other; and

a fiber density of said wall portions is higher than that of said base portion and lower than the fiber density of said second fibrous assembly sub-panel.

19. (new) The liquid-absorbent panel according to claim 18, wherein
the fiber density of said base portion is in a range of 0.03-0.10 g/cm³;
the fiber density of said protuberances and wall portions is in a range of 0.05-0.15 g/cm³;
and

the fiber density of said second fibrous assembly sub-panel is 0.10-0.50 g/cm³ in a range of.

20. (new) The liquid-absorbent panel according to claim 18, wherein the first side of
said base portion includes a plurality of areas each being completely surrounded by a number of
said protuberances and said wall portions.